

ALLEY IN SQUARE 465.

APRIL 27, 1898.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. RICHARDSON, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9068.]

The Committee on the District of Columbia have considered the bill (H. R. 9068) to authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to extinguish alley in square 465, and report same with recommendation that it do pass.

The reasons for passage of the bill appear in the letter of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to Hon. J. W. Babcock, chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia, of date March 25, 1898, which is printed below as a part of this report.

OFFICE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, March 25, 1898.

DEAR SIR: The Commissioners have the honor to recommend favorable action upon House bill 9068, to authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to extinguish alley in square 465, which was referred to them at your instance for their examination and report.

The small alley adjacent to lots 85 and 86, square 465, being only a trifle over 3 feet wide and not a through alley, is entirely useless for public purposes. Its possession by the District is not only not an advantage to the District, but the possession of it is a positive disadvantage in that the District is obliged to maintain and be responsible for it, and it is a detriment to adjoining property.

This alley evidently was not one of the interior spaces laid out when the plan of the city was adopted, but is evidently one which has been dedicated to the District since; in which case the fee of the ground contained therein would not be in the United States, and the District would have only an easement and not the fee.

Under these circumstances the basis of compensation proposed by the bill appears to be just and reasonable.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. ROSS,

President Board of Commissioners, District of Columbia.

Hon. J. W. BABCOCK,
Chairman Committee on the District of Columbia, House of Representatives.

